

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A substrate processing apparatus comprising:
a substrate processing unit for performing a predetermined process on a substrate; and
a substrate transfer unit for holding a container for storing ~~a substrate~~ substrates therein
and transferring said ~~substrate~~ substrates stored in said container to said substrate processing unit,
wherein

said substrate transfer unit includes:

a mounting part for mounting said container thereon to transfer said ~~substrate~~ substrates
stored in said container to said substrate processing unit;

a first shelf line containing a plurality of first shelves arranged in ~~[[the]]~~ a vertical direction
at a first predetermined interval, each being capable of mounting said container thereon;

a second shelf line provided between said mounting part and said first shelf line and
containing a plurality of second shelves arranged in the vertical direction at a second
predetermined interval, each being capable of mounting said container thereon;

a displacing element for displacing at least one of ~~a target one of~~ said plurality of first
shelves in said first shelf line, said displaced one of said plurality of first shelves holding a
container to be transported, and ~~a corresponding~~ one of said plurality of second shelves in said
second shelf line corresponding to said one of said plurality of first shelves holding a container to
be transported, relative to the other in the vertical direction, thereby ensuring a container
transport path of a height greater than said second predetermined interval in said second shelf line;
and

a transport element for transporting said container mounted on said ~~target~~ displaced one of
said plurality of first shelves to said mounting part in the horizontal direction along said container
transport path created by said displacing element while holding said container.

2. (Original) The substrate processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said displacing element is connected to at least part of said plurality of second shelves for displacing said at least part of said plurality of second shelves in the vertical direction.

3. (Original) The substrate processing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said displacing element includes a plurality of displacing mechanisms connected to said plurality of second shelves, respectively, each being capable of displacing a corresponding one of said plurality of second shelves individually in the vertical direction.

4. (Original) The substrate processing apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the number of shelves in said second shelf line is less than that of shelves in said first shelf line in the vertical direction, and
displacement of said plurality of second shelves is performed by said displacing element within the height of said first shelf line in the vertical direction.

5. (Original) The substrate processing apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the number of shelves in said second shelf line is less by one than that of shelves in said first shelf line in the vertical direction, and
the amount of displacement of each of said plurality of second shelves performed by said displacing element corresponds to said second predetermined interval.

6. (Currently Amended) A substrate processing apparatus comprising:
a substrate processing unit for performing a predetermined process on a substrate; and
a substrate transfer unit for holding a container for storing a ~~substrate~~ substrates therein
and transferring said ~~substrate~~ substrates stored in said container to said substrate processing unit,
wherein

said substrate transfer includes:

a mounting part for mounting said container thereon to transfer said ~~substrate~~ substrates stored in said container to said substrate processing unit;

a two-dimensional array of shelves where a plurality of shelves, each being capable of mounting said container thereon, are arranged in a matrix in vertical and horizontal directions, said two-dimensional array of shelves having at least one shelf-less part on a side of said mounting part;

a displacing element for displacing at least one of said plurality of shelves in said two-dimensional array of shelves in the vertical direction, thereby moving said shelf-less part; and

a transporting element for transporting said container to said mounting part in the horizontal direction through said shelf-less part moved by said displacing element while holding said container.